

REMARKS

According to the Office Action, unity of invention is lacking between the following groups of claims:

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| Group I | - | Claims 15 to 29 |
| Group II | - | Claims 30 and 31 |

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree and respectfully traverse, the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 15 to 29, are elected for further prosecution.

Regarding the traverse, the Office Action alleges, without setting forth a rejection, that the claims of Groups I and II “share the same technical feature” with European Patent Application Publication No. 1 199 377 (“EP ’377”).¹ However, the Office Action does not even allege that EP ’377 discloses all of the features of claims 15 and 30. For example, both claims 15 and 30 recite, “the metal powder one of: (a) formed of jacketed powder cores formed from at least one metal of the platinum group, jacketing of the powder cores formed of a material having a same base metal as the metal-based alloy; and (b) formed of a metal powder alloy that includes the at least one metal of the platinum group and at least one material having the same base metal as the metal-based alloy” and recite, “applying the slip material at least from area to area onto the component part while forming a slip layer.” Since the Office Action fails to even allege that EP ’377 discloses these features, it can only be assumed that the Examiner considers at least these features to be absent from EP ’377. Hence, at least these features would, for the present analysis, appear to constitute “the same or corresponding technical features.”

Accordingly, withdrawal of -- or at least reconsideration of -- the lack of unity objection is respectfully requested.

¹ While the Office Action refers to “EP199377,” it is assumed that the Office Action intended to refer to European Published Patent Application No. 1 199 377.

In any event, Applicants shall be entitled to reconsideration for rejoinder of claims 30 and 31 upon allowance of claims 15 to 29.

Respectfully submitted,

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